Appendix VIII.

[Vide answer to question No. 1053 asked by Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th January 1929, page 57 supra.]

G.O. Mis. No. 2818, Revenue, dated 3rd December 1928.

Read—the following paper :—

From the Secretary, East Godavari District Association, dated 17th November 1928, No. 55.

Order.

In his letter read above the Secretary of the East Godavari District Association has drawn attention to the difference in the rate at which enhanced water-cess is levied when water is taken irregularly for the irrigation on the one hand of proprietary lands and on the other hand of ryotwari wet lands. He states that the enhanced water-cess levied for the irregular irrigation of ryotwari wet land is greater than the corresponding cess charged for the irregular irrigation of a proprietary land. This difference follows inevitably from the difference in the character of these two classes of land. The basis of the enhanced charge for water is in either case the rate which the ryot would pay to Government if he irrigated his land with due authority. In the case of a ryotwari holder of wet land this rate is the appropriate wet assessment, as fixed at the settlement; in the case of a ryot in a proprietary estate it is the prescribed water-rate. The Association seems to overlook the fact that the ryot in a proprietary estate has to pay this water-rate to the Government in addition to the rent which he has to pay to the proprietor. The assessment on a ryotwari wet land is the commuted money value of a share of the produce of the land, and though the facility for irrigation which the land possesses may be one of the many factors which determine the rate of the assessment, it is not correct to say that a specific charge for water forms one item of the assessment. The suggestion therefore made by the Secretary of the Association that the charge for water should be detached from the assessment is based on a misapprehension of the principles on which the assessment on ryotwari lands is fixed. The object of the rules on page 28 of Board's Standing Order, Volume II, to which attention was drawn in the answer to question No. 532, is to prevent the taking of water for irrigation unauthorizedly and if, as suggested by the Association, the rates of penal charge are reduced in the case of ryotwari wet lands, the inevitable tendency will be an increase of irregular irrigation. In these circumstances the Government are of opinion that it is neither expedient nor desirable to alter the principle of the rules on the subject.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

H. R. Pate,
Secretary to Government.

To the Secretary, East Godavari District Association, Cocanada.

Copy to the Board of Revenue.